



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T - 04 - 05

For Immediate Release
January 6, 2005

Contact: Lisa Gray
916.324.0936
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

\$150,000 Settlement Reached with Moore Agricultural Products Company, Inc.

Sacramento --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has reached a settlement with Moore Agricultural Products Company, Inc. (MAPC) for hazardous waste violations at its facility at 11521 Excelsior Avenue in Hanford, Kings County.

Under terms of a Stipulation and Order (Order), signed in November 2004, MAPC will pay a total of \$150,000 of which \$131,750 is administrative penalties and \$18,250 is for reimbursement of costs incurred by DTSC.

The settlement stems from violations observed by DTSC inspectors during an inspection at the facility on February 21, 2002. The violations noted were:

- Treating hazardous waste by neutralizing acidic tank bottoms without authorization from DTSC
- Storing hazardous waste in at least 14 containers onsite without authorization from DTSC
- Failing to determine if waste generated by MAPC was a hazardous waste
- Failing to determine that at least 13 supersacs and several 55-gallon drums contained hazardous waste
- Failing to properly label numerous containers holding hazardous wastes
- Holding hazardous waste in containers that were in poor condition and leaking
- Failing to keep containers holding hazardous waste closed
- Failing to complete hazardous waste manifests

As part of the settlement, DTSC will reduce MAPC's original penalty of \$150,000 by \$5,000 if at least three of its employees obtain certificates of satisfactory completion of hazardous waste management courses at the California Compliance School (CCS). CCS provides students with "hands-on" instruction on how to comply with hazardous waste statutes and regulations. MAPC must submit the certificates of satisfactory completion to DTSC within 180 days of the effective date of the Order. If all the certificates are not received by DTSC within the 180 days, the entire remaining balance of \$5,000 shall then become immediately due and payable.

Also, as part of the Order, if MAPC remains free of Class 1 violations for one year from the date this Order was signed, and all scheduled settlement payments are made as required, the remaining \$50,000 of the settlement amount will be forgiven.

MAPC has corrected all violations noted during the inspection.

###

The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.